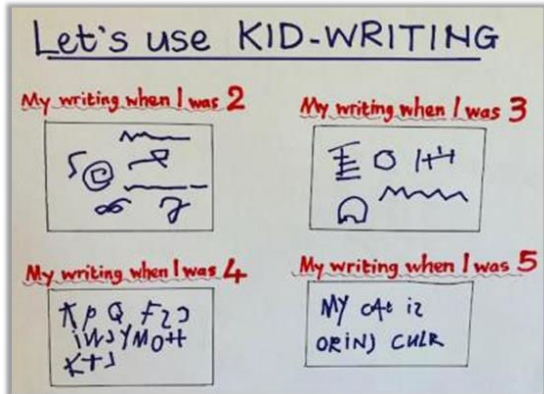


What is kid writing?

The job of Nursery & Reception is to nurture children who see themselves as writers and to help them write happily, so they never need to ask 'Is this right?' or 'I don't know how to write it, can you do it?' That's why it's a good idea at the beginning of the year to teach a few mini-lessons on how to make kid writing. Kid writing is what children do when they use their imaginations and approximations to make and use marks.



We need to tell children that they are only three, four or five and so they are allowed to use their own writing. And as they continue to write every day and learn more about forming letters, using 'sound spelling', writing their name and other common words and phrases conventionally, their kid writing will evolve into more complete and coherent messages and will include more complex structures that we as adult writers recognise.

Example mini-lesson: Let's make kid writing

When I was your age, only three, four or five, I hadn't learnt how to write 'adult writing' yet so while I was learning I used my own writing too or what we can call 'kid writing'. Let me show what kid writing can look like.

At this point, it's a good idea to show children some of the writing you've collected from children at all different development stages so they can see for themselves what kid writing can look like:

- Squiggles
- Letter-like shapes
- A selection of known letters
- Invented spellings

When do the children learn about phonics, letter/sound correspondence and spelling?

This is taught during daily phonics sessions. It is really important that this happens in sessions which are not part of book-making time. Teaching is orientated towards children applying their phonics leaning in the context of their book-making that same day.

When do the children learn about alphabet knowledge, fine motor skills, letter formation and handwriting?

Again, it's important that this is taught outside of book-making time. The children are encouraged to apply what they learn in their book-making sessions that day.

